TOBYHANNA REPORTER

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NEWS NOTES

Vehicle decals becoming obsolete

The identification decals employees have been placing on the windshields of their vehicles are no longer required for Tobyhanna Army Depot. In accordance with this, employees no longer have to register their vehicles with the Security Division.

However, other installations may still require them. Employees are asked to leave them on until they expire, then remove and destroy them upon expiration, or if retiring or otherwise leaving employment here. The destroyed decals do not have to be returned to the Security Division.

For further information, call the Security Division, X57550.

Volunteers needed for OSC parties

This year's Operation Santa Claus (OSC) parties are scheduled for Dec. 6 ,7 and 8. The program runs each day from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to assist with entertainment and serving lunch to each group, craft tables, transportation of guests and as Santa's helpers. Volunteers will work from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. on each day.

Employees interested in volunteering need to fill out a form that must be signed by their supervisor. The form is available on the Intranet under Community Services – MWR.

Completed forms can be e-mailed to Paula Butts, faxed to the Community Services office, X55786, or mailed (Mail Stop 5044).

For further information, call Butts, X57150.

Chapel conducts services

The depot chapel conducts worship services every Sunday. The service begins at 11 a.m. followed by a fellowship hour.

For details, call X59689 or X58873.

Renovation affects fitness center

Renovations are scheduled to begin in late November in the Mack Fitness and Recreation Center that could last up to six weeks.

The entire center will be closed for a short period of time while a new gym floor is installed and new cardio and strength equipment is installed in the fitness rooms.

Other renovations include a new environmental control system and automated dividing curtain that will allow more than one activity on the main gym floor at one time.

For more information, call X57150.

Electronics Mechanic David Walsh performs an operational test of an AN/TRC-190 radio system for a quality inspection. Branch personnel have improved visual management within the shop by placing parts and administrative tools within easy reach of technicians in work areas, which has improved efficiency and flexibility, allowing the branch to take on more workload to meet customer needs. (Photo by Tony Medici)

Depot cuts costs for TRC-190 mission

by Anthony Ricchiazzi
Editor

Employee dedication to process improvement has cut costs for the depot's AN/TRC-190 mission, which saw its 1,000th system inducted for Reset.

The AN/TRC-190 High Capacity Line of Sight (HCLOS) Radio Terminal is a multichannel radio terminal that allows point-to-point ultra high frequency radio links between various nodes of the Mobile Subscriber Equipment communications system. Tobyhanna Army Depot began working the AN/TRC-190 in 2007, completing 174 systems that year. In 2011, that number peaked at over 600.

Tobyhanna is performing two major AN/TRC-190 missions; a Reset effort for the Logistics and Readiness Center's (LRC), Command, Control and Communications-Tactical (C3T) Directorate (U.S. Army CECOM) and a retrofit in conjunction with the overhaul effort for Project Manager Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (PM WIN-T). Tobyhanna personnel work on six versions of the AN/TRC-190. Within these versions, shelters can be customized to meet customer requirements. Radios are upgraded, as required, to expand bandwidth and technicians can modify electrical patch panels, cable power supplies and circuit breakers.

Tobyhanna Army Depot recently inducted the 1,000th AN/TRC-190 on the Reset program since the effort began in fiscal 2008.

An Army National Guard system assigned to the 151st Signal Battalion from Greenville, S.C., is scheduled for completion by the end of January. Tobyhanna plans to induct about 300 systems for fiscal year 2012.

"Tobyhanna studies the specific needs and offers the right solutions for the TRC-190 HCLOS Reset program," stated Travis Watson, a logistics management specialist (LMS) in the LRC, C3T Directorate. "This ensures the warfighters' requirements are met."

The gain in productivity was made possible by an enterprise-wide commitment to improvement, Lean initiatives, and a commitment by the prime shop, Digital Group Multiplexer and Mobile Subscriber Equipment (DGM/MSE) Branch, to quality and efficiency, in partnership with Production Management and Productivity Improvement and Innovation directorates. The DGM/MSE Branch is part of the Communications Systems Directorate's Voice Communications Division.

"Tobyhanna has offered the same unit funded cost on the PM WIN-T workload for the past three fiscal years despite the yearly increases to labor rates and material costs." said Kris Martin, an LMS in the Communications Branch, Communications Management Division, Production Management Directorate. Sustaining the unit funded cost was accomplished by streamlining the route, reducing material usage, driving down man-hour standards and general process improvements.

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Preparing early best for EEmail migration

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SCEP employees graduate

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Family Action Plan addresses issues

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Those frustrating highway delays

Chaplain's Corner
by Chaplain (Maj.) Jeffrey L. Brooks

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit (Psalm 147:5).

I wonder if there is anyone besides me who finds yourself getting frustrated with all of the roadwork and slow moving vehicles on the highways around here.

A few days ago my blood pressure shot up and my patience was tested as soon as I got onto Interstate 80 heading eastward. Just a couple minutes after driving onto the highway the traffic ahead of me came to a complete stop. For the next hour I was part of a convoy of vehicles moving no more than two miles per hour.

Something that I have learned is that when it comes to Pennsylvania highways you never know what to expect. That is, you need to anticipate and expect the unexpected. The truth is, if I had known beforehand what I was going to be facing on the highway I would have taken a different route.

The Bible tells us, in the book of Psalms, that God knows everything about everyone everywhere. 1. *O Lord you have examined my heart and know everything about me.* 2. *You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.* 3. *You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do.* 4. *You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord.* 5. *You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head.* 6. *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand.* (Psalm 139:1-6)

The word for today is this: God knows what we are going to be facing each day as we move down the highway of life.

So, I want to challenge you to pause today and ask God to bless your day. Take a couple seconds each morning to ask God to bless your life, your family and your work.

Major network upgrade closer to field

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M. (Army News Service)—The Army's on-the-move, satellite-based communications network is getting its first field tryout with Soldiers this month as the service moves closer to deploying the capability next fall.

The participation of Warfighter Information Network-Tactical, or WIN-T, Increment 2 in the Network Integration Evaluation, or NIE, 12.1, will demonstrate the value of conducting mission command while on the move in a realistic operational environment. WIN-T Increment 2 is a upgrade to the tactical network backbone that will extend satellite communications to the company level, allowing Soldiers to communicate through voice, data, images and video — even in complex terrain that can break line-of-sight radio connections.

"The Army's not static. Our Soldiers have to be on the move, and what WIN-T Increment 2 is going to enable us to do is to have better communications while on the move," said Heidi Shyu, the acting assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, who visited with Soldiers at the NIE site here last week. "It's very important. So we need to demonstrate it, and we need to push it out to the field."

As a Major Defense Acquisition Program, or MDAP, since 2007 and a critical part of the network baseline, WIN-T Increment 2 provides equipment, training, sustainment and field support as part of the program baseline. WIN-T Increment 2's current production contract will support nine maneuver units in Low Rate Initial Production and will be used for one additional year of Full Rate Production once authorization is granted by the Defense Acquisition Executive.

In line with the Army's accelerated, more cost-effective approach to network modernization, WIN-T Increment 2 has been integrated into tactical formations at the current NIE a full six months ahead of its formal operational test.

That allows the Army to obtain and respond to early feedback from Soldiers like Capt. Joseph D. Perry, a company commander within the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division (2/1 AD) who will evaluate WIN-T Increment 2 and a set of mission command applications hosted on a single computing system inside his vehicle.

Corrections

In the Oct. 25 *Tobyhanna Reporter*, the obituary for Gene Collarini left out his wife as a survivor. Also, the obituary information received by the *Reporter* did not state that his parents survive him.

Joanne Everett's name was misspelled in the article for the Length of Service article.

The *Reporter* apologizes for the errors.

Take action to prepare for November mail migration

As stated in the Oct. 25 *Tobyhanna Reporter*, the Department of Defense (DoD) has directed that all Army e-mail users move to an Army Enterprise E-mail (EEmail) service managed by the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA).

Tobyhanna's new migration start date and time is Nov. 29 at 6 p.m. The migration is scheduled to conclude on Dec. 9.

Directorate of Information Management (DOIM) personnel are working with DISA to update the depot's e-mail accounts. DOIM is also working to develop a schedule for the migration.

DISA has provided Tobyhanna with the number of accounts that will be migrated nightly and DOIM's schedule will be based on this and accomplished by directorate.

DOIM will publish the migration schedule once its finalized.

Information Assurance Security Officers (IASO) have been identified in each directorate to assist with the migration. These IASO's will be trained prior to the migration and able to provide immediate assistance to their peers.

Employees can access the list of the IASO's on the depot's intranet page under D/IM Services/Information Assurance Officers.

Employees will be required to perform the following pre–migration steps to prepare mailboxes for migration It is recommended employees start the steps now.

Mailboxes must be reduced to:

- Less than 50MB,
- No more than 2,000 items (including calendar items, tasks, contacts, messages, etc.)
- No email messages or items older than 30 days.

Failing to do so will result in migration failures and a potential loss of mail.

To reduce individual mailbox size to 50 MB, move e-mails to folders, delete or archive them.

The links below help determine mailbox size and set up an archive. These steps can be performed now.

Contact the DOIM Service Desk, X56677, for assistance with any of these processes.

Access the following documents on the depot's intranet page under D/IM Services/Enterprise E-mail Migration Information to help identify your mailbox size and item counts, as well has how to reduce them.

a. How to determine size of your mailbox

b. How to create a .PST File (Archive)

DOIM will make this transition as seamless as possible and provide assistance throughout the migration process.

Remember, failure to perform these steps can result in lost or unrecoverable mail.

DOIM will publish Employee Bulletins, make public announcements, send 'all user' messages leading up to the migration and provide post migration guidance.

Submit 'Bold Ideas' for cost efficiency

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. — The U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) is soliciting your ideas to become more cost efficient and effective.

Several factors — including a 10-year war — forced our society and Army to become a more cost conscious culture.

Your participation in the Bold Ideas Campaign will allow your ideas to reach directly to headquarters and identify processes and programs that can save money and fundamentally change how we do business.

The campaign is designed to rapidly gather bold ideas and provide quick recognition for participants. Continual feedback to contributors will be provided as ideas progress through an assessment process.

Ideas with merit will receive recognition and a letter of endorsement from AMC to participate in the Army Suggestion program.

Untill Dec. 31, AMC will be looking for bold ideas for being more cost effective, changing processe, and becoming more energy efficient.

Join us in shaping our future by submitting your Bold Ideas to https://hqamc.aep.army.mil and click the Bold Ideas icon.

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Excellence in Electronics

Hatch Act spells out permissible political activity

by Marti Verbonitz
Chief Legal Counsel

While sites such as Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn and Twitter encourage the exchange of ideas, the Hatch Act prohibits sharing ideas that are political in nature while on duty time, in a government work place or by referencing your federal employment or the Army.

Editor's Note: This is the second of a two-part series on the Hatch Act and social media. The first part was published in the Oct. 25 issue.

The Hatch Act limits political activities of federal employees both on and off duty. Access to social media presents new and trickier issues.

While sites such as Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn and Twitter encourage the exchange of ideas, the Hatch Act prohibits sharing ideas that are political in nature while on duty time, in a government work place or by referencing your federal employment or the Army. Moreover, the Hatch Act prohibits a federal employee from soliciting, accepting or receiving political contributions at any time or place.

The term "political activity" means doing something in support of or opposition to a political party, a candidate for partisan political office (e.g., president, senator, representative, state or local office), or a partisan political group (e.g., "Citizens for John Smith for Congress").

Following

A federal employee may "follow" the Twitter account of a political party, partisan political group or partisan candidate's campaign, but cannot solicit, accept or receive political contributions at any time or do anything while on duty or in a federal workplace. If they "follow" on Twitter or are a "fan" of, or "like" a party, partisan group or partisan candidate on Facebook, they should not engage in activities with respect to those entities that would constitute "political activity" during duty hours or while in the federal workplace. This would include, for example, suggesting that others "follow," "like" or become a "fan" of the party, partisan group or candidate, accepting an invitation to a partisan political event or forwarding the invitation to others.

Some employees think they can avoid the Hatch Act by creating an alias account and be a "fan" of, "like" or "follow" a political party, partisan political group or partisan candidate. Even if an alias is created, the employee is still subject to the Hatch Act. The employee cannot use the alias accounts or pages during federal work hours or in a federal workplace to send a political message. The employee is also required to adjust privacy settings so that followers or fans are hidden from others and there's no appearance of taking an active part in partisan political campaigns.

In addition, federal employees are prohibited from soliciting, accepting or receiving political contributions at any time. Thus, if an employee receives an invitation from the candidate to a fundraising event via Facebook or Twitter, the employee would be prohibited from sharing that invitation with others while on duty or during personal time.

Given the Hatch Act prohibitions, a federal employee cannot create a Facebook or Twitter page in his official capacity as an Army employee and advocate for or against a political party, partisan political group or partisan candidate on the page. Advocating for or against a political party, partisan group or partisan candidate on such a page would constitute a violation of the Hatch Act's prohibition against using one's official authority to interfere with or affect the result of an election.

Thus, such advocacy must be confined to the employee's personal Facebook page or Twitter account, subject to the limitations described above.

What happens if an employee receives a partisan political e-mail in his government e-mail account while at work? Is this a Hatch Act violation? The answer is no. Simply receiving a partisan political e-mail while at work does not constitute prohibited political activity as defined under the act. An employee may not, however, send or forward that e-mail to others. Can the employee send or forward a partisan political e-mail from his work e-mail address to his personal e-mail address while at work, i.e., on duty and in a federal room or building? The OSC says yes, the employee may send that e-mail to his/her personal e-mail address while at work. Simply sending such an e-mail to his/her personal e-mail address does not constitute prohibited political activity as defined under the Act or its regulations. However, employees would violate the Act if they send the e-mail to their personal e-mail addresses and then, using personal e-mail accounts, send the partisan political e-mail to other people while they are on duty and/or in a federal workplace or building.

Friending

Although a federal employee may become a "friend" or "fan" of, or "like," the Facebook page of a political party, partisan political group or partisan candidate, federal employees are prohibited from engaging in political activity while on duty or in a federal workplace. This would include, for example, suggesting that others "like," "friend" or become a "fan" of the party, group or candidate, accepting an invitation to a partisan political event, or forwarding the invitation to others. In addition, federal employees are prohibited from soliciting, accepting or receiving political contributions at any time. Thus, if an employee receives an invitation from the party, group or candidate to a fundraising event via Facebook or Twitter, the employee would be prohibited from sharing that invitation with others.

A tricky area for federal supervisors occurs when a federal employee "friends" with their subordinate employees. Can the supervisor advocate for or against a political party, partisan political group or candidate for partisan public office on their personal Facebook pages? The answer is yes, if the supervisor's statements are directed at all of his Facebook "friends," e.g., if he posted his opinion concerning a candidate in his Facebook "status" field.

The OSC views this activity as being akin to the supervisor placing a sign in her yard that promotes a candidate but that, incidentally, may be seen by her subordinates. However, such statements would violate the Hatch Act if the supervisor specifically directed them toward subordinate employees or to a subset of friends that includes subordinates, e.g., by sending a Facebook "message." In this situation, the supervisor's actions are purposefully targeting subordinates with the message, as opposed to the scenario described above, in which the subordinates see the supervisor's opinions by chance.

Similar to the guidance above concerning Facebook's messaging function, a supervisor may never send to subordinate employees an e-mail that is directed at the success or failure of a political party, partisan political group or partisan candidate. OSC would view such an e-mail as one that purposefully targets subordinates, and thus it would be an improper use of the supervisor's official authority or influence to affect the result of an election.

The Hatch Act is one of the most difficult laws to navigate and social media adds another layer of difficulty. Employees should remember these basic rules: do not engage in on-line political activities during duty hours or in the work place or a federal building. Keep politics personal by conducting political activities on non-duty time, outside of government facilities and use your personal computer equipment. And never solicit or accept political contributions while on duty or personal time.

Use of terms such as Facebook and Twitter is for illustrative purposes only and is not an endorsement of these or any other social media.

CREW systems help defeat improvised explosive devices

by J. Elise Van Pool
Army News Service

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — "If it's on, it's going to work. So it's 100 percent effective," explained Eddi Bowers, the Regional Support Center-Kandahar site lead, about the Counter Radio Electronic Warfare system.

CREW systems are helping Soldiers to defeat deadly improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, by blocking radio signals that can be used by insurgents to detonate the devices remotely.

The jammers were developed in 2006, when insurgents in Iraq were using cell phones to remotely detonate roadside bombs.

The equipment developed by military scientists is basically equivalent to a transmitter on steroids, said Bowers.

"It takes a little more than an off the shelf item to do that," he said.

CREW has been highly effective in preventing the remote detonation of IEDs by cell phones said Bowers.

"There are still radio controlled ones out there, but nowhere near as many as there used to be because they know we have it figured out," he explained.

"They [Soldiers] love it," Bowers said. "It gives them the boost of confidence to know that anything that's radio operated out there, they're going to jam it."

An average installation takes between two hours and four hours. The RSC at Kandahar averages about 10 installations per day and every field service representative there usually does about four or five maintenance calls a day as well. The team also has 9 FSRs out at various locations in Southern Afghanistan.

"The biggest challenge for us is probably the kits for different vehicles." Bowers said. "There is such a menagerie of vehicles at Kandahar (airfield). It's unbelievable. There are loads of different types of vehicles compared to Bagram (airfield) and you have to have a special kit for each one of these vehicles.

"And it's a monster logistically wise. You have to have a special kit. And four or five of them [vehicles] will come in and then you're out of kits and you have to wait to get more kits," he said.

Despite the challenges, RSC-Kandahar has the best production rate in Afghanistan. About fifty percent of all the theater provided jammers are installed here.

The team started out with 52 guys working out of single office container with two computers.

"We have come a long, long way," said Bowers.

Next year marks 100-year partnership between Tobyhanna, Army; search for artifacts ongoing

Preparations are underway to observe the 100th anniversary of the Army's arrival here in 1912.

As part of this, the Tobyhanna Reporter will regularly publish historical articles and photographs. Personnel are invited to bring photos and documents related to the Army's presence at Tobyhanna to the graphics office in Building 11. The originals will be scanned and returned. Employees must obtain supervisory approval before calling X57743 to schedule an appointment.

In August 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait. Tobyhanna provided support to U.S. forces during Operation Desert Shield/Storm, including sending over 120 volunteers to Southwest Asia. The last volunteers returned in late 1991.

The 1991 BRAC recommended the closure of Sacramento Army Depot and directed a competition for its workload between the Air Force's Sacramento Air Logistics Center and five Army depots. Tobyhanna won four of five competitions for the Sacramento workload and was the only Army depot to outbid the Air Force.

1992 was an award-winning year for Tobyhanna, as it earned the Pennsylvania Governor's Labor-Management Cooperation Award, the Department of the Army Environmental Quality Award and the Pennsylvania Governor's Awards for Hazardous Waste Minimization in the municipal and industrial categories. Also in 1992, most of the depot's supply functions were transferred to the Defense Logistics Agency. The transfer created a new tenant activity at the depot: Defense Distribution Depot–Tobyhanna.

In 1993, Tobyhanna again gained through the BRAC process, acquiring workload from Vint Hill Farms Station, Virginia.

Depot, Army and local officials cut the ribbon for the Satellite Communications facility in November 1993. The Communications Security facility was opened in 1994.

In 1995, the region rallied around the depot when it was considered for closure. A Blue Ribbon Task Force of area business leaders and elected officials coordinated a "Keep the Best" campaign. Subsequently, the BRAC commission closed Sacramento Air Logistics Center and directed its ground communications-electronics workload to Tobyhanna.

As part of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of World War II, a monument to all who served in that conflict was erected here in 1995.

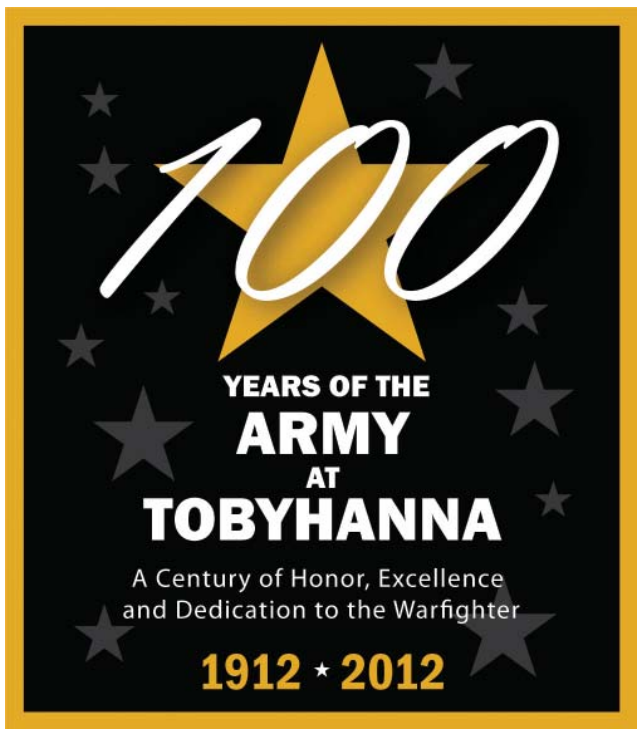
In 1997, Tobyhanna was selected as an Army Community of Excellence. In October 1997, operational control of Tobyhanna Army Depot was transferred from the U.S. Army Industrial Operations Command to the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command.

In 1998, numerous renovation and facilitation projects were started to accommodate the new workload from the closing Sacramento Air Logistics Center.

Also in 1998, Tobyhanna again earned recognition as an Army Community of Excellence and was selected for the President's Quality Award (PQA) Program Finalist Award. Tobyhanna was one of only 11 federal agencies recognized in the 1998 PQA program.

In 1999, Tobyhanna earned merit status in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program.

In 2000, OSHA elevated Tobyhanna to star status, making the depot the first Department of Defense agency to earn that distinction. In 2000, the three-year transition of more than 160 ground communications-electronics systems from McClellan Air Force Base to Tobyhanna was completed.



TRC-190 from Page 1

There were two major process changes where efficiencies were gained resulting in increased buying power to the customer.

"Tobyhanna was running two independent TRC-190 programs for PM WIN-T. One was for overhauling the shelters and the other was to perform the retrofit and install the upgrades," explained Michael Broskoskie, a production controller in the Communications Branch. "We were able to consolidate both efforts into one continuous flow and eliminate redundant operations. This highlights the team efforts of everyone involved, from the customer to the shop and back."

The second initiative streamlined the way power cables were processed and resulted in saving four hours per shelter.

"It might not sound like a big deal when you hear of saving four hours per shelter, but with the volume of TRC-190s Tobyhanna is working, it really adds up," said Production Controller Maria Portanova, Communications Branch.

Several Lean techniques were implemented, including a Point Kaizen event in September. "Point Kaizen refers to small, isolated improvements that are easy to implement quickly. For example, we established a few areas to help consolidate items like our racks and cleaning tools so everyone will focus on the one location when looking for what they need rather than searching and asking for where an item is," explained Joe Ehrenhardt, electronics mechanic leader, DGM/MSE Branch.

All five- to seven-day work in process items were moved to a storage warehouse so that an item only has to be moved once, rather than several times.

Visual management in the DGM/MSE Branch was improved by placing parts and administrative tools where they are within reach for the work areas, increasing efficiency. "It helps us to remain flexible to be able to take on more workload to satisfy customer needs, which change on a regular basis," said Electronics Mechanic Dave Walsh, DGM/MSE Branch.

A digital Production Control board reflects the branch's schedule for the current month, allowing everyone to see clearly and quickly where they stand within the schedule.

"There was great participation and teamwork within our directorate and the supporting directorates to help us improve our efficiencies," noted Chris Cognigni, DGM/MSE Branch chief.

Cognigni emphasized that the AN/TRC-190s go through several processes throughout the depot before a system is considered complete. Everything in a system, from the radios to the hoist rings on the shelter, are repaired and inspected for quality before being sent back to a unit.

"Tobyhanna Army Depot continues to improve and develop to become the premiere Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance facility in the Department of Defense," Watson said.

Army networking radios improve communications at tactical edge

WASHINGTON (Army News Service)—As the Army focuses on its number-one priority of modernizing the network, its first networking waveform radio continues to enhance communications at the tactical edge.

Expanding its fielding efforts, Product Manager Network Systems, known as PdM NS, which is assigned to the Army's Program Executive Office Command, Control and Communications-Tactical, or PEO C3T, awarded a $66 million contract to Harris Corporation, Melbourne, Fla. on Sept. 30 for the procurement of eight Brigade Combat Teams worth of AN/PRC-117G radios.

These radios will support the modernization of brigade combat team tactical communications and the LandWarNet/Battle Command G3/5/7 validated requirement to field the AN/PRC-117G radios to eight Infantry BCTs in the first quarter of fiscal year 2013.

"This radio sends critical information to Soldiers when they need it the most," said Lt. Col. Troy Crosby, product manager for NS, which manages the radios. "It provides the dismounted Soldier with a means to relay information from the battlefield to a command post, in real-time."

The AN/PRC-117G radios are also playing a key role in the Army's second Network Integration Evaluation, or NIE 12.1, which runs from Oct. 31 to Nov. 19 at Fort Bliss, Texas, and White Sands Missile Range, N.M. More than 3,800 Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division will participate in NIE 12.1.

In October 2009, PEO C3T first fielded the radios to the 4th Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division in Afghanistan in response to an Operational Needs Statement, which is a process that allows urgent requests from theater for equipment or resources to be identified and rapidly fielded. Since the initial fielding, more than 2,300 AN/PRC-117G radios have been fielded to units in Afghanistan. Today, the radios are helping those units expand communications networks that were previously restricted to fixed sites.

The wireless AN/PRC-117G radio can simultaneously transmit voice and data. It allows troops to exchange large amounts of tactical data, such as video and biometrics. The radio can support small-unit operations and connect the tactical edge with forces at company-level and above.

This commercial, off-the-shelf single-channel radio provides wideband networking capability and interoperability with fielded waveforms. It is also interoperable with legacy radios. It's 30 percent smaller and 35 percent lighter than currently fielded multiband manpack radios.

"The enemy in Afghanistan might lack the state-of-the art technology that we field, but they adapt their tactics constantly," Crosby said. "Soldiers in the Army's lowest tactical formations can pass data and information utilizing the AN/PRC-117G as a flexible tactical network backbone. The tactical network allows timely decisions by leaders at the critical point of an engagement."

SCEP Graduates

A ceremony was held on Nov. 3 for 43 Tobyhanna employees who completed the Student Career Experience Program.

Depot commander Col. Charles Gibson presented the employees with their certificates at the graduation ceremony.

The program gives students the opportunity to train for potential jobs with the depot upon graduation. If students complete the academic training and 640 hours of work at the depot, they may be offered full-time, career-conditional employment with benefits and advancement opportunities.

Curran

Marywood University

Farkas

Lackawanna College

Gardner

Luzerne County Community College

Homza

Johnson College

Name	School	Career	Organization
Jordan M. Brandes	ITT Technical Institute	Electronics Worker	D/ISR
Kenneth M. Byers	Johnson College	Electronics Worker	D/C3-Avionics
Christopher R. D'Amico	Johnson College	Electronics Worker	D/C3-Avionics
David N. Denault	Johnson College	Electronics Worker	D/ISR
Douglas E. Dunkle	Lackawanna College	Electronics Worker	D/SIS
Matthew S. Janner	Johnson College	Electronics Worker	D/Comm Sys
David J. Krysko	Johnson College	Electronics Worker	D/ISR
Michael J. Krzak	Luzerne Co Comm College	Electronics Worker	D/SIS
Justin J. Kubilus	Johnson College	Electronics Worker	D/C3-Avionics
Michael J. Laskowski	Johnson College	Electronics Worker	D/SIS
Robert C. Malos	Lackawanna College	Electronics Worker	D/C3-Avionics
Jason A. Mascioli	Luzerne Cty Comm College	Electronics Worker	D/SIS
Michael T. McDonald	Lackawanna College	Electronics Worker	D/C3-Avionics
James M. McGraw	Lackawanna College	Electronics Worker	D/ISR
Edward T. Milot	Luzerne Co Comm College	Electronics Worker	D/ISR
Sean R. Morcom	Lackawanna College	Electronics Worker	D/Comm Sys
James S. Nicosia	ITT Technical Institute	Electronics Worker	D/Comm Sys
Christopher L. Oakley	Johnson College	Electronics Worker	D/ISR
Aaron L. Richards	Luzerne Co Comm College	Electronics Worker	D/ISR
Eric J. Shager	Johnson College	Electronics Worker	D/ISR
Adam M. Stahl	Lehigh Carbon Comm College	Electronics Worker	D/Comm Sys
Jesse J. Tutino	Johnson College	Electronics Worker	D/SIS
Shawn M. Warwick	Johnson College	Electronics Worker	D/ISR
David W. Weisenfluh	Johnson College	Electronics Worker	D/SIS
Eric J. Wilcom	Johnson College	Electronics Worker	D/ISR
Kyle A. Winter	Northampton Comm College	Electronics Worker	D/Comm Sys
Ryan C. Yzeik	Johnson College	Electronics Worker	D/Comm Sys
Joseph Casale	Johnson College	Materials Handler	D/Comm Sys
Matthew J. Kearney	Johnson College	Materials Handler	D/Comm Sys
Robert G. Fried	Marywood University	Management Analyst	D/PM
Kristyn M. Kelly	Wilkes University	Management Analyst	D/PM
Leigh Levandoski	Susquehanna University	Management Analyst	D/PII
Kathryn L. Pacheco	University of Scranton	Management Analyst	D/PM
Tia D. Martini	Marywood University	Supply Systems Analyst	D/PM
Kevin P. Curran	Bucknell University	Mechanical Engineer	D/PE
Chase A. Gardner	Penn State University	Electronics Engineer	D/PE
Joseph J. Homza	Penn State University	Electronics Technician	D/PE
Janelle A. Farkas	Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst.	Industrial Engineer	D/Comm Sys
Lorne W. Fisher	Binghamton University	Industrial Engineer	D/PII
Abigail R. Crismon	Marywood University	Interior Designer	D/PII
Anne C. Gregory	University of Scranton	Human Resource Spec.	CPAC
Stephanie M. Coleman	Marywood University	Contracting Specialist	Contracting
Dana M. Kavitski	Kings College	Contracting Specialist	Contracting

Kavitski

Kelly

Levandoski

Pacheco

Winter

Army step closer to enabling self-aware network

by Edric Thompson
RDECOM CERDEC Public Affairs

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md.— U.S. Army engineers discussed the results of their efforts to enable a self-aware, decision-making network during the Military Communications Conference 2011, Nov. 8 at the Baltimore Convention Center.

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's (RDECOM) communications-electronics center, or CERDEC, has developed cognitive wireless networking capabilities that employ network-wide learning and reasoning algorithms that share information that enable nodes to make decisions.

CERDEC engineers hope that the results of their Cognitive Algorithm and Network Design Experiment, or CANDE, will enable easier network maintenance, reduce human decision-making requirements, increase network lifetime, transfer data with less delay, and reduce energy consumption -- all of which result in a higher degree of network performance on the battlefield.

"It's important that we apply learning and reasoning because currently, there's no 'intelligence' in the network. Therefore, we're developing capabilities that will aid the network in taking on this adaptive layer of learning and information sharing to reduce the complexity in managing the network," said Sharon Mackey, chief for the Network Design and Cognitive Networking Sciences branch of CERDEC's Space &Terrestrial Communications Directorate.

A more intelligent infrastructure reduces the need for Soldier intervention and aids in providing seamless information, noted Mitesh Patel, S&TCD technical lead for CANDE.

"A Soldier has to keep track of a lot of things to maintain the network such as network constraints, requirements and objectives. With cognitive algorithms, the network is more intelligent and self aware thus reducing resource management in the network," Patel said.

One of the products within CANDE is the Cognitive Network Engineering Design Analytic Toolset, or CNEDAT, which can provide network design architectures for networks as they are being engineered, maintained, repaired or redesigned.

"The CNEDAT does not need a constructed network. Provide the constraints and objectives, and it will create a network for you: that is the power of this tool. It can optimize existing networks, and it can design a network from scratch while providing the most optimized way of maneuvering through the network," Patel said.

One way it does this is by choosing a tactical radio signal's "hopping pattern." Radios typically "hop" to the closest radio; however, the closer radio may not always be the better choice if it is congested with traffic, explained Charles Graff, an electronics engineer with CERDEC S&TCD.

"The algorithm looks at the delay estimation to all source destination pairs and then determines which route has the best bandwidth or least traffic before transmitting data.

"The algorithm then updates itself on a periodic basis and learns from past experience not to take certain paths," Graff said.

The algorithms can also enable a "dimmer-switch" capability to help reduce network energy consumption.

CERDEC S&TCD proved their concept in an operationally-relevant environment June 1- July 15 at Fort Dix, N.J., during Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance & Network Modernization Event 2011.

New Supervisors

Michael McKeefery is chief of the Industrial Operations Facilities Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

As chief, he provides support to all components fabricated, modified, assembled and repaired under the depot overhaul and special fabrication projects.

This support includes surface preparation, finishing, plating, painting and photo plate fabrication components for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems.

Prior to being named chief, McKeefery was a process improvement specialist in the Process Improvement Division, Productivity, Improvement and Innovation Directorate. He began his depot career in April 2006.

McKeefery served over nine years in the Army as a tactical satellite communications specialist, communications security custodian, battalion communications non-commissioned officer (NCO), brigade tactical operations communications NCO and information technician NCO in charge.

His awards include the Army Commendation Medal (2), Army Achievement Medal (5), National Defense Ribbon, Armed Forces Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Korean Service Medal.

McKeefery is a 1994 graduate of Riverside Jr./Sr. High School, Taylor. He is currently pursuing a degree from Misericordia University in Dallas.

McKeefery is a member of Divine Mercy Parish and a

McKeefery

Metsker

Randall

member of Vikings Helping Vikings and the R&L club.

His hobbies include coaching basketball and football teams.

Rodger Metsker is chief of the Logistics Management Branch, Forward Logistics Support Directorate.

As chief, he manages and supervises the Pacific Region Logistics Management Team in support of the Standard Integrated Command Post System. These duties cover areas in Korea, Alaska, Hawaii, and the entire Pacific Coast and Northeast region.

Prior to his current position, Metsker was chief of the Pacific Fielding Team, C3/Avionics Directorate's Forward Repair Activity Division. His depot career began in February 2006.

Metsker served 10 years in the Army as a signal Soldier. He was stationed at Fort Drum, N.Y., Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and Fort Lewis, Wash. Metsker also completed one tour in Bosnia and another in Iraq.

His awards include the Army NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (2), Army Humanitarian Service Medal, Army NATO Medal, Army Achievement Medal (3) and Army Commendation Medal (4).

Metsker is a 1995 graduate of A.C. Davis High School, Yakima, Wash. Earlier this year, he received a degree from ITT Technical Institute, Indianapolis, Ind.

He is a member of Elks Lodge #1450 and his hobbies include fishing and mountain biking.

George Randall is chief of the Carpentry Branch, Integration Support Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate

As chief, he supervises employees who fabricate several wood products in support of the depot's missions.

Products include multiple compartment cabinets, cases and chests, which involve cutting, shaping and assembling parts.

Branch employees also construct tables, cabinets, and interior fixtures for shelters, vans and other mobile equipment. Employees modify C4ISR cabinet covers, panels and related wood parts, and fabricate/ repair fiberglass items.

Prior to being named chief, Randall was a carpenter leader in the branch.

Randall served three years in the Army and received training as a communication center specialist at Fort Gordon, Ga. He served 19 months in Vietnam as a radio operator.

He is a 1967 graduate of North Pocono High School, Moscow, and enjoys fly fishing, hunting and woodworking.

Community Bulletin

Editor's Note: The Community Bulletin provides an avenue for depot and tenant employees to advertise van or car pools, and for-sale items. Money making items such as rentals and personal business will not be accepted.

Information must be submitted via e-mail to Anthony.Ricchiazzi@us.army.mil, or written items can be mailed to the Public Affairs Office, mail stop 5076.

Submissions must include a name and telephone extension. Only home phone numbers will be published in the Trading Post section. Voluntary submission of items constitutes individual's consent to publish personal information all versions of the *Tobyhanna Reporter*.

Ads will be published in four consecutive newspapers. It is the customer's responsibility to update or renew items listed in the Community Bulletin.

For information, call Anthony Ricchiazzi, X57557.

VAN/CAR POOLS

Madisonville, Moscow: looking for van pool, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., "A" placard, call Vince Sabatini, X57450.

Jonas, Brodheadsville, Effort area: looking for van pool, 5/4/9, second Friday RDO, call Katie Nolan, X57308

Allentown, Whitehall: 3 openings, non-smoking, van, 5/4/9, both RDOs, departs from Whitehall Mall at 5:45 a.m. and returns around 5:40 p.m., contact: lawrence.s.moser@us.army.mil or craig.kahle@us.army.mil.

Shavertown, Wilkes-Barre, Pittston: "A" placard, 5/4/9, runs both RDOs, leaves 5:55 a.m. and returns 5:15 p.m., no tobacco products, contact James Eiden, X56170 or james.eiden@us.army.mil.

Hawley-Rte 507-S, Newfoundland, 191-S, 423-S: 1 opening, 5/4/9, both Fridays, non- smoking, contact Bruce Lassley, bruce.lassley@us.army.mil or X56427/X57343.

New Jersey, Water Gap area: One opening, Mount. Arlington, Allamuchy, Delaware Water Gap and New Jersey pickup points, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., call Robin, X57345.

Wind Gap: 2 openings, runs 5/4/9 both Fridays, contact Jim Rose, X56602 or jim.rose2@us.army.mil.

Dupont, Avoca, Moosic: 2 openings, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., call Janice X56269.

Wilkes-Barre: 2 openings, van, "A" placard, non-smoking, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m, pick up locations are the Park & Rides across from Kmart in Wilkes-Barre Township and in Pittston/Dupont across from Ken Pollock Suzuki, call John Sokolowski, X57007, or Michelle Reese, X58566.

Dallas: 1 opening, van, "A" placard, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m, route includes Dallas, Shavertown, Luzerne and Wilkes-Barre, traveling I-81 North to I-380, call Ralph, X59559 or Roy, X57230.

Carbondale: 2 openings, Jermyn, Mayfield, Childs, and Carbondale. House to house pick up except in Childs where people meet at the Park & Ride, depart at 5:45 a.m., non smoking, rotate driving, "A" placard, call John, X57581 or John, X58676 or 909-6243 after work.

TRADING POST

Misc items: SKIL Circular Saw, 7-1/4 inch, 2-1/8 horsepower, 10 amp, model 5150, excellent condition, used once, $15, call Stanley, X59981.

Vehicle: 1985 GMC 1500 pick-up truck, 2-wheel drive, automatic, 85,000 miles, 10,000 miles on rebuilt 350 engine, owned since new, needs some work, $3,000 OBO, call 643-8820.

Furniture: Two chairs, one chair-and-a-half and one extra large ottoman in light taupe microfiber material from the Briarwood Collection, $650 OBO, call Tim 216-1876.

Misc items: 18' trampoline with enclosure, asking $350; solid oak bunk beds with mattresses, brand new, only used for two months, asking $600; call Mary Ann 851-9267 or 489-5918.

Vehicle: 1994 Jeep Cherokee, 4-wheel drive, 84,000 original miles, well maintained, no rust, aluminum wheels with new tires, new brakes, excellent winter work vehicle, $4,200, call 563-1105.

Truck: 2010 Chevrolet Silverado 3500, 4-wheel drive, dump truck, fully loaded, Vortec 6.0L V8, 9-foot Fisher snow plow, A/C, cruise control, 7,500 miles, $38,000, call Adam Beers, 350-6893.

Treadmill: Weslo 78S model, excellent condition, $250 obo, call Blaise 883-9981.

Snow Tires: Four Hakkapeliitta RSi, size 205/65/R15, used last winter only, very low miles, $250 OBO, pictures available upon request, call or text Jon, 991-3000.

Puppies: Great Dane/Mastiff/Lab mix puppies, $50 each, born July 9, puppies are mostly black, a few have some white & brown spots, grow to 50 to 100 pounds, great with children, very lovable, one male, three females, call 589-1151 or 905-3475.

Misc items: Stihl gas trimmer, $60.00; Upright Hoover vacuum cleaner, $30.00, call 655-8207.

Vehicle: 1998 Toyota Camry LE, 2.2 L, power windows, locks, sunroof, new inspection. Factory serviced, maintained, clean, dependable, $5,200, call Jeff, 876-1353.

Vehicle: 1995 Jeep Wrangler, 4 cylinder, 5-speed manual transmission, hard and soft top and doors included, tires with less than 1,000 miles, new stereo system, satellite radio ready, was not used for off-road, asking $3,500, call 836-5202.

Wheels and tires: 1994 Jeep Grand Cherokee OEM cast wheels, gold trim with center caps and P225/70R15 tires mounted, fits many 1993-1998 Jeep models, one set new, $150, four sets used in excellent condition, $125 each, all for $600, call Mike at 443-0545.

Vehicle: Black Infiniti FX35 AWD, power heated leather seats, backup camera, Bose premium sound, 6 disc changer, 101,450 miles, $19,950, call 604-6217 or send e-mail to tony.bartocci@gmail.com.

Camper: Pop-up, 2005 Flagstaff by Forest River, 176 SD LTD, like new condition, sleeps six, kitchen/dining area, $3,199 OBO, call Randy, 578-5112.

Family Action Plan gears up for 2011

The depot's 2011 Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) workgroup meets annually in November to address issue of concern to Army family members.

AFAP issue submission or updates will be announced in the *Tobyhanna Reporter*, or contact the AFAP manager, 570–615–8887, for information.

The AFAP is input from the people of the Army to Army leadership. It's a process that lets Soldiers, civilians, retirees and families say what's working, what is not working, and what they think will fix it.

It alerts commanders and Army leaders to areas of concern that need their attention and it gives them the opportunity to quickly put plans into place to work toward resolving the issues.

How it works: Installations hold AFAP forums where Soldiers (active, National Guard, Reserve, and retired), Department of the Army civilians and family members identify issues that they believe are important for maintaining a good quality of life.

The commander sees to it that the issues are worked toward resolution. Some issues are applicable beyond the local level. These are sent to the major command AFAP conference or to the headquarters Department of the Army worldwide conference, where many of them are put into the overall Army Plan.

In 2010, Tobyhanna's AFAP collected and worked 17 issues in housing, force support, dental care, entitlements, medical and consumer services.

• Seven were forwarded up through AFAP Mid-Level IMCOM Conference receiving a final determination of Unattainable.

• Ten issues were considered local receiving final determination of: eight complete, eight unattainable and one active.

• To learn more about issues entered into Tobyhanna's AFAP, see the Issue Update Book posted on the intranet (click Community Services, then click ACS).

If you have an idea for quality of life improvements, try AFAP! AFAP Issue Sheets can be downloaded from the Army Community Service webpage: www.tobyhanna.army.mil, Army Community Service, or contact the AFAP program manager, 570–615–8887.

Cyber threat imminent

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) — "I think the threat [of cyber-attacks] is very real and could potentially be very near-term," said Brig. Gen. John Davis, U.S. Cyber Command at Fort Meade, Md.

The nation, he said, will demand the military be engaged in cyber defense of the nation, because the military has the greatest capacity and capabilities to do so.

Davis said that today, it's not in the "authority lane" of the military to play that role. Instead, he said, the responsibility lies with the Department of Justice and the FBI, though he said the military is responsible for its own military networks.

"But 90 percent of the military networks reside and ride on commercial infrastructure, so we're concerned about what [an adversary's] cyber activity could do to that commercial infrastructure, because it can have an adverse impact on the military's ability to do its job," he said.

Davis and other think tank specialists came together at Unified Quest 2012, Oct. 25-28, for a series of annual seminars where members of academia, and U.S. and foreign militaries examine critical issues to current and future force development.

Career Milestone

From left, depot commander Col. Charles Gibson, David Hackenberg, Edward Mojzuk, Mark Ritter, Walter Dunn, Deputy Commander Frank Zardecki and depot Sgt. Maj. Kelvin Spencer attend the Length of Service ceremony held Oct. 26.

Four Tobyhanna employees were recognized for their years of government service during a Length of Service Ceremony Oct. 26.

David Hackenberg – 35 years, equipment specialist, Guardrail Field Service Branch; Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate.

Edward Mojzuk – 35 years, electronics integrated systems mechanic, TACSAT Equipment Branch; Communications Systems Directorate.

Mark Ritter – 35 years, maintenance mechanic leader, Utilities and Grounds Division; Public Works Directorate.

Walter Dunn – 50 years, electronics mechanic, Command and Control Systems Branch; Command, Control and Computers/Avionics Directorate.

In addition to service certificates and pins, employees with 35 years of service receive an engraved mantel clock. A 50 year service award includes a tree planted in an appropriate place on post, a golden eagle on a wooden base and certificate signed by the AMC commanding general.

Honorees who attend the Length of Service Ceremony also receive a four-hour time-off award. Depot commander Col. Charles Gibson presented the awards.

Welcome to the Depot

Name	Title	Organization
Kimberly Downs	Testing administrator	Syracuse MEPS
John Hurd	Electronics mechanic supervisor	D/C3/Avionics
James Janick	Mechanical engineer	D/PE
Joseph Johnson	Inventory management specialist	D/C3/Avionics
Derek Landis	Mechanical engineer	D/IRM
Anthony Polster	Electronics engineer	D/PE
Gerald Rhyder	Machinist	D/SIS

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) monthly rates chart is on the internet www.tsp.gov/index.html

To check out how retirement investments are doing, click on the following links:
Returns, Share Prices & Fund Sheets, Current Returns, Monthly Returns, and Individual TSP Funds

Television stations

WNEP, Channel 16
WYOU, Channel 22
WBRE, Channel 28

AM radio stations

WAEB, 790 (Allentown)
WARM, 590 (Scranton)
WBAX, 1240 (Wilkes-Barre)
WKAP, 1470 (Allentown)
WEJL (ESPN), 630 (Scranton)
WILK, 910/980 (Pittston)
WICK, 1400 (Scranton)
WYCK, 1340 (Wilkes-Barre)

FM radio stations

WAEB, 104.1 (Allentown)
WEZX, 106.9 (Scranton)
WKAB, 103.5 (Berwick)
WGGY, 101.3 (Pittston)
WKRZ, 98.5 (Pittston)
WMGS, 92.9 (Scranton)
WQFM, 92.1 (Nanticoke)
WWDL, 105 (Scranton)
WZZO, 95.1 (Bethlehem)

Winter weather often produces hazardous conditions that may impact the depot's operational status. Public announcements regarding depot closings or starting time delays will be provided to local television and radio stations, and recorded on a toll free information hotline. Employees are encouraged to tune in to the media outlets listed below or call 1-800-429-4496 to hear the recorded announcement.

Depot upgrades artillery-related weather system

by Anthony Ricchiazzi
Editor

Technicians are executing a $2.4 million fielding mission to upgrade a meteorological system that enhances artillery accuracy.

Tobyhanna Army Depot is upgrading and fielding AN/TMQ-52 Profiler Meteorological Measuring Sets.

Tobyhanna Army Depot has fielded half of the required upgraded AN/TMQ-52 Profiler Meteorological Measuring Sets, about 100, says Amy Pocius, logistics management specialist, Production Management Directorate.

Profiler is a suite of meteorological sensors and associated processing equipment housed in a Humvee-mounted shelter. It provides artillery units with accurate meteorological data to engage targets with more precision. The data consists of temperature, atmospheric pressure, relative humidity, wind direction and speed.

"Data is collected via deployed balloon-borne sensor, surface sensor, and a download from the NOGAPS (Navy Operational Global Atmospheric Perdition System)," said Michael Weiss, logistics management specialist. "Profilers use a satellite signal to provide the NOGAPS data to the system. The satellite signal feed is being phased out by the Air Force, requiring current Profiler Systems to find an alternate way to download NOGAPS data."

Tobyhanna, in coordination with PM Meteorological and Target Identification Capabilities (MaTIC), is replacing the satellite signal receiver with the Global Broadcast Service (GBS) suite. The depot's Readiness Training Division developed a program to train units on how to use the equipment.

"This will give the Profiler system the integrated capacity to download and perform automated model ingestion of the NOGAPS data," Weiss said. "We're averaging three to four fieldings per month worldwide."

"We are accomplishing this using our field service representatives from the Field Logistics Support Directorate and our trainers," Pocius said. "One of our recent fieldings happened the week of Sept. 26. Tobyhanna installed a GBS modification for the 1-109th Field Artillery at the Kingston Armory near Wilkes-Barre. Once the installation was complete, the Soldiers were given formal training."

Training Instructor Jack Kostiak shows Sgt. Ryan Culbert, HHB 109th Field Artillery, how to acquire signal lock and receive data on a satellite using the Global Broadcasting System just installed to upgrade an AN/TMQ-52 Profiler Meteorological Measuring Set. (Photos by Steve Grzezdzinski)

Weiss noted that the unit provided patrol and rescue assistance during the recent flooding in the Wilkes-Barre area. "It was very rewarding for me to be able to assist the 1-109th Field Artillery with this fielding. They helped watch over my neighborhood during a difficult time," he said.

During the fielding, it was discovered that the 1-109th Profiler had a bad Scalable Processor Architecture (SPARC) component, part of the Profiler's computer.

"This was not part of the original mission, but James Millington, a field service representative, drove down to APG (Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md.) and returned with a new component," Weiss said. "He reloaded the software, which got the system up and running so the GBS could be installed."

"The unit had a live fire exercise the following week at Fort Pickett (Va.) and needed to have their satellite time extended," Pocius added. "We called the product manager directly and got their GBS Mission Requirement time extended so the Soldiers could focus on their upcoming mission."

Tobyhanna is scheduled to complete all fieldings by the end of fiscal year 2012.

Ahead of schedule: Army rolls out first Apache Block III attack aircraft

by Gary Sheftick
Army News Service

MESA, Ariz. — The first Apache Block III helicopter was delivered to the Army during a recent ceremony.

Hundreds of industry, government and military officials attended the event in which two of the new AH-64 aircraft were delivered to the Army ahead of schedule. The first Block III helicopter was finished about a week early and the second about a month ahead of schedule, according to David Koopersmith, Boeing Attack Helicopter Programs vice president.

"It's an amazing game-changer," said Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, the Army's program executive officer for aviation, who went on to say that no other helicopter in the world could match the Apache Block III.

The new attack helicopter has a stronger engine, improved avionics, better computer-networking capability and increased maneuverability when compared to current Apache aircraft, officials said.

The Block III Apache features a 701D engine, composite rotor blades, a Rotorcraft Drive System of the 21st Century — known as RDS-21— Face Gear Transmission and High Performance Shock Strut advanced landing gear.

The RDS-21 improves efficiency because the transmission combines the output torque of two engines into a single power torque transmission, and the High Performance Shock Strut advanced landing gear gives the aircraft hard landing abilities.

"It's like flying an Appaloosa stud," said Lt. Col. Dan Bailey, Apache Block III program manager, who said he had experience as a youth breaking horses.

"This aircraft is so much faster and stronger than anything we've had in the past," Bailey said.

Bailey said he used to compare the Block III to the older Apache helicopters by saying it was like driving a sports car compared to a sedan. But after flying the new aircraft configuration, he said it's much more than that. "Flying the Block III is truly like trying to hold back that Appaloosa stud. He always wants to go."

The first two aircraft will be used as prototypes and be flown by test pilots from the Redstone Test Center in Alabama.

The helicopters will at first be kept at the Boeing complex in Mesa, Ariz., where pilots and engineers from Redstone will test them. Then one of the two new helicopters may eventually be placed at Redstone Arsenal, officials said. The next five helicopters are scheduled to be finished in March and will be fielded to the 1st Attack Reconnaissance Bn., 1st Aviation Regiment at Fort Riley, Kan.

The unit is part of the 1st Infantry Division and is slated to be at initial operating capability with the Apache Block III helicopters by the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2013, officials said. They said it's likely the 1/1st will deploy to Afghanistan with the aircraft soon after that.

The 1st Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment at Fort Hood, Texas, is the next unit tentatively scheduled to be fielded with the Apache Block III. But that could change, Army officials were quick to point out.

Overall, the Army plans to acquire 690 Block III Apaches between now and 2026 at a production rate of roughly two battalions per year, beginning in FY 2013.

Some of these will be re-manufactured aircraft and some built completely new. Crosby did add that the "constrained budget environment" over the next few years could affect the acquisition rate.

"We've got to think of this as part of the overall modernization strategy of the Army today," Crosby said of the Apache Block III.

The new Apache Block III aircraft lifts off the runway at the Boeing complex in Mesa, Ariz. (U.S. Army photo)

Plans also exist to field the Apache Block III with U.S. allies such as Taiwan. The Taiwan government has a contract for 30 of the new aircraft to be fielded over a 12-month period. Officials added that other coalition nations have requested demonstrations of the new aircraft's capabilities.

(Kris Osborn of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology contributed to this report through an earlier article.)